

NUSF 99.50

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March 12, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl
Executive Director
Nebraska Public Service Commission
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508C

RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests

Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Southern area of the Nebraska City RL01 Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the Nebraska City Central Office where fiber back haul is nearby. The Nebraska City remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Nebraska City Central Office. An electronic version of this filing has also been submitted to the NUSF Staff.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures

WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – NEBRASKA CITY EXCHANGE RL01

Checklist Item No. 1:

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve Northwestern area of Nebraska City, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Nebraska City is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Northwestern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at one site, one remote Base Station approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the Nebraska City Central Office where fiber back haul is nearby.
- The Nebraska City remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Nebraska City Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$150,683, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$84,049, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program or have a competitor. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

Checklist Item No. 7:

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Checklist Item No. 8:

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Nebraska City RB01

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC? *	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
311319666002148	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	46	23%
311319666002149	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	111	56%
311319666002151	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	1	1%
311319666002163	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	41	21%
311319666002166	CAF2			CAF2	Total	199	100%
311319666002172	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002176	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	111	55.8%
311319666002179	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002181	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002185	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002186	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002196	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002198	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002203	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002205	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002212	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002213	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002214	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002216	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002237	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002241	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002243	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002250	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002252	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002254	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002255	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002256	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002261	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002262	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002264	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002265	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002354	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002355	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002356	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002358	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002365	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002370	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002374	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002391	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669001012	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669001028	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669001038	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669001047	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669003004	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669003009	CAF2			CAF2			
311319669003020	CAF2			CAF2			
311319666002093	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002097	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002098	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002150	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002152	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002153	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002171	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002177	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002180	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002183	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002184	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002187	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002188	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002199	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002200	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002201	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002202	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002206	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002207	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002208	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002209	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002210	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002211	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002215	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002238	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002239	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002240	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002246	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002247	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002253	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311319666002257	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			

311319669001058	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001059	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001071	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001072	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001073	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001087	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001088	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001089	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001090	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001091	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001093	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001094	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001095	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001096	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001097	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669001098	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001099	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001100	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001101	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001102	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001103	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible
311319669001284	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003002	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003007	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003008	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003014	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003015	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003016	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003017	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003018	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003075	Competition - Other			Competition - Other
311319669003135	Competition - Other			Competition - Other

Footnotes:

* There are two Fixed Wireless providers per Form 477 data that provide broadband in these census blocks.
Below is a table explaining why each of these providers should not be considered a valid competitor for purposes of reviewing whether each of the above census blocks should be NE BB Eligible:

Name as Used on FCC Form 477	Do they Provide Voice Service?*	Speed equal to at least 10/1?	Is Provider Unsubsidized?	NUSF Eligibility?
Future Technologies	N	Y - 20/5	Y	NE BB Eligible
Spiral Solutions and Technologies Inc	Y	Y - 15/5	Y	Competition - FW

Footnotes for Table:

*Windstream has contacted each of these providers call centers and Future Technologies said they do NOT provide voice services and Spiral Solutions and Technologies Inc indicated they do offer voice service.

Check List #3 Subscribers - Nebraska City RL01

Exchange	# Locations in Deployment Area
Nebraska City	266

Estimated Broadband Take Rate	50%
New Broadband Subscribers	133

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Nebraska City RL01

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Nebraska City RL01

Budget

Remote Sites

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,065	\$0	\$1,065	1	\$0	\$1,065	
Fiber Buildout	\$2,958	\$1,268	\$4,225	1	\$1,268	\$4,225	Placement of 650 ft of fiber cable
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	146	\$0	\$2,628	
Site Engineering	\$3,600	\$0	\$3,600	1	\$0	\$3,600	
Site Acquisition	\$10,183	\$0	\$10,183	1	\$0	\$10,183	
Power Make Ready	\$7,995	\$0	\$7,995	1	\$0	\$7,995	
110' AGL Wood Pole	\$0	\$27,354	\$27,354	1	\$27,354	\$27,354	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	1	\$8,825	\$15,950	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$20,000	1	\$15,000	\$20,000	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$0	\$13,500	\$13,500	1	\$13,500	\$13,500	Pole-mounted
Total					\$88,000	\$146,283	

Tax	\$88,000	5.00%	\$4,400
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Grand Total			\$150,683
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Excluded

ROW		2	\$0
IDC	\$88,000	5.00%	\$4,400

Total Project Costs	' \$150,683
% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2	55.8%
Requested Funding Amount	\$84,049

Depreciation Lives

	Life in Years
Fixed Wireless Assets	45
Poles	33

Check List #6 Pricing - Nebraska City RL01

Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
50Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
100Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
1 Gbps		\$75	\$20 off for 12 months	\$55

Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder				
Speed		Standard Price	Current Promo	Net Price
Up to 25Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
50Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
100Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
1 Gbps		\$95	\$20 off for 12 months	\$75

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation

AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Brad Brannon

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF ARKANSAS)

:ss

COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 5 day of April 2018
by Brad Brannon



Notary Public

